

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 1, 18 and 24, as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c)(1)(ii), amended claims 1, 18 and 24 are set forth in a Marked Up Version in the pages attached to this amendment.

1. (Thrice Amended) A method for non-destructively evaluating a specimen for the presence of kissing unbond defects, comprising the steps of:

heating the specimen;

applying a force to the specimen, wherein the magnitude of the force is sufficient to exacerbate a thermal discontinuity caused by a subsurface kissing unbond defect of said specimen; and

generating an infrared image to detect the presence of a subsurface kissing unbond defect.

18. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus for non-destructively evaluating a specimen for the presence of kissing unbond defects comprising:

a heat-sensitive image generator that generates thermographic images;

a heater that increases the temperature of the specimen; and

means for applying a force to the specimen, wherein the applying means changes at least one dimension of a subsurface kissing unbond defect in the specimen to create a thermal discontinuity.

24. (First Amended) A method for non-destructively evaluating a specimen for the presence of kissing unbond defects, comprising the steps of:

heating the specimen;

applying a force to the specimen, wherein the magnitude of the force is sufficient to exacerbate a thermal discontinuity caused by a subsurface kissing unbond defect of said specimen; and

generating an infrared image to detect the presence of a subsurface kissing unbond defect, wherein the applying step includes disturbing the specimen using ultrasonic or acoustic energy.